Statement

(a) *Ministry of Environment & Forests*

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme.

2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.

3. Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.

4. Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies.

5. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

6. Project Tiger.

7. Association of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneraton of degraded forests.

(b) *Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment*

1. Desert Development Programme.

2. Drought Prone Area Programme.

3. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

4. Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.

5. Employment Assurance Scheme.

(c) *Ministry of Agriculture*

1. Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.

2. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone River of Indo-Gangetic basin.

Dumping of Toxic Wastes in India

2000. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered panel looking into the issue of hazardous wastes has found that containers full of toxic substances "exported" to India by other countries are laying unclaimed in several parts and inland containers depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether it is a fact that the country is becoming a dumping ground for toxic wastes; and

(d) if so, measures taken by Government to ban such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the issue of quantum and nature of hazardous wastes lying at the docks, ports and inland containers depots has been examined by a High Powered Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The status of the hazardous wastes lying at various ports is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 184. Annexure No. 63] These wastes have been confiscated by the Commissioner of Customs as parties have abandoned it.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, imports of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, imports of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw material after examining each case on merit. From April 1995, import of hazardous wastes has been restricted to actual users with an import licence. *Vide* order dated 5.5.1997, the Supreme Court of India in a public interest litigation Writ Petition No. 657/95 - Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology versus Union of India and Others ordered that no authorization/permission should be given by any authority for imports banned by the Central Government or by any order made by any Court or any authority. Seven permissions for imports of hazardous wastes have been granted so far from 1989 till 1996. During 1998 two importers have been granted permission for negotiations with the exporters.

Preservation of Flora and Fauna of the North-Eastern Region

2001. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact of damage to the preservation of the rich flora and fauna of the North-Eastern region;

(b) the steps taken to preseve the flora and fauna of the North-Eastern regions; and